

Message Text

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FOR AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, XJ, OEXC
SUBJ: VISIT OF OCAM SECRETARY GENERAL TO US

REF: BANGUI 347, BANGUI 0024

1. DR. SYDNEY MOUTIA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION COMMUNE AFRICAINE ET MAURICIENNE (OCAM), WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON MAY 7 TO BEGIN A 30-DAY INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM GRANT AND I AM ANXIOUS THAT HE HAVE A FULL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON AND A GOOD EXPOSURE TO OUR AFRICAN POLICIES.

2. A BILINGUAL MAURITIAN CIVIL SERVANT, MOUTIA HAS FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MODERATE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN STATES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF OCAM. ALTHOUGH MOUTIA HAS TRANSITED THE US BEFORE, THIS WILL BE HIS FIRST VISIT. UNLIKE MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES IN OCAM, HE HAS A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF ANGLO-SAXON POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS BECAUSE OF HIS MAURITIAN ORIGIN AND BRITISH EDUCATION. HE REPRESENTS OCAM AT A WIDE VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, INCLUDING THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA AND THE RECENT LOME CONVENTION CONFERENCE, AND VISITS MEMBER COUNTRIES FREQUENTLY.

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3. AS YOU KNOW, OCAM IS COMPOSED OF TEN FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES RANGING FROM SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST IN THE WEST TO MAURITIUS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. ORGANIZED ORIGINALLY AS A FRANCOPHONE "COMMONWEALTH", OCAM GAVE UP ITS POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN 1974 AND HAS SINCE CONCENTRATED ON ITS 17 SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. THESE INCLUDE COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS (AIR AFRIQUE, POSTAL SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM, ETC.) AND INSTITUTES

AND SCHOOLS (RURAL ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, BILINGUALISM, CIVIL SERVICE TRAINING, STATISTICS, ETC.). HEADQUARTERS OF THESE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT AFRICA, AND MEMBERSHIP IS NOW OPEN TO STATES NOT MEMBERS OF OCAM.

4. I RECOMMENDED IN MY RESPONSE TO YOUR CABLE ON NEW POLICY INITIATIVES IN AFRICA THAT WE SEEK TO ESTABLISH CLOSER TIES WITH REGIONAL MODERATE INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS OCAM (BANGUI 0024). MOUTIA'S VISIT IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN DOING THIS. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS ORGANIZATION AND HIS OWN ACCESS, COMBINED WITH CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL SHREWDNESS, CHARM AND ARTICULATENESS, I THINK HE SHOULD CALL ON A NUMBER OF SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH AFRICA. IF YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS, I WOULD HOPE YOU COULD RECEIVE HIM, BUT I BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO CALL ON THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, GOVERNOR GILLIGAN AND A FEW KEY CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS. ANYTHING YOU COULD DO TO HELP WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.
QUAINTON

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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